

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Two or three years, at least, I think.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Yeah, and the interesting thing, colleagues, is that even though it may have been constitutionally correct because the Attorney General went to court and the court ruled in the Attorney General's favor and Judge Murphy, one of the "askings" of his is that, well, if you're going to take him off, since the state put him on the state should pay the costs and the court agreed with that. In essence, if you remember, Judge Murphy spoke probably some things that he shouldn't have said at a particular time and it was contrary, it was counter to...it was not favorable to the Attorney General, current Attorney General at the time and it was at that point that the Attorney General decided, you know, I don't like this guy, he's on this board, he technically shouldn't be there, I'm going to get this guy off. And, basically, what the Attorney General should have said is, oh, by the way, people in Nebraska, the guy's good on the board, it's good to get that perspective, he's been on there for awhile, no one's had any problem with it, but I do and I want the people of Nebraska to pay these court costs because I want to prove a point, and that's in essence what happened. The Attorney General got back at his antagonist, John Murphy; John Murphy had the last laugh because the Attorney General may have gotten him off but he's going to cost the state the dollars that we have here and at some point you shake your head and you say, at what cost was that, that we did; what was the real purpose? If the real purpose was, in fact, to uphold the law then we go back to some of the other laws. Senator Lindsay, that the Attorney General also has appealed, some that has taken him over...took him over two years, specifically LB 507, and took him two years to decide he wanted to do that one. But on this one, by golly, it was immediate because this man said something that the Attorney General didn't like and I guess we all understand now, boy, Mr. Attorney General, you sure got him on that one and, oh, by the way, taxpayers, it cost you this amount of money, six thousand and some dollars, to prove a point that was a political point that was not worth the cost. And, with that, I'll certainly support the bill because the Supreme Court says we have to. On the other hand, on a lighter note, if you'll notice, Judge Murphy hasn't been around here for awhile because this bill's coming up and maybe we should just keep the bill around for awhile so that he stays at home on the bench, but